

STEERING, LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

September 9, 2009

5:30 p.m.

Courthouse

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Jack Black
Commissioner Adam Coggin
Commissioner Gary Farley
Commissioner Jeff Jordan
Commissioner Jeff Phillips
Commissioner John Rodgers, C

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess
James C. Cope
Keith Bratcher
Jim Daniel
James O. Baker
Becky Shelton
Carol Cook
Will Jordan
Jeff Reed
Carl Allen

Chairman Rodgers presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with six members being present at that time.

MINUTES:

"Commissioner Coggin moved, seconded by Commissioner Farley, to approve the minutes of the last meeting as mailed. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

ANNOUNCE VACANCY ON BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:

Chairman Rodgers advised the position of Keith Bratcher on the Board of Zoning Appeals was expiring and accordingly being announced.

ANNOUNCE TWO VACANCIES ON BEER BOARD:

Chairman Rodgers advised the positions of Keith Bratcher and Alford Fann on the Beer Board were expiring and accordingly being announced.

FILL VACANCY ON EQUALIZATION BOARD TO FILL UNEXPIRED TERM OF TALMADGE GILLEY:

Chairman Rodgers advised an application had been received from James O. Baker for appointment to fill the unexpired term of Talmadge Gilley on the Equalization Board which expires April, 2010. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Black, to recommend appointment of James O. Baker to fill the unexpired term of Talmadge Gilley on the Equalization Board to expire April, 2010. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

FILL TWO VACANCIES AND ONE ALTERNATE POSITION ON CODES ENFORCEMENT BOARD:

Chairman Rodgers advised applications have been received from Carl Allen, Ken Bumpas and Daryl Alexander for appointment to the Codes Enforcement Board. The vacancies are for two vacancies and one alternative. Following address of the Committee by Carl Allen and review of the applications,

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Black, to recommend appointment of Carl Allen and Ken Bumpas to the vacancies on the Codes Enforcement Board. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

"Commissioner Coggin moved, seconded by Commissioner J. Jordan, to recommend appointment of Daryl Alexander to the alternative

position on the Codes Enforcement Board. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

2009/2010 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Chairman Rodgers previously provided the proposed Committee assignments for the use and information of the Committee advising as presented 20 of 21 first choices were accommodated. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Farley moved, seconded by Commissioner Coggin, to approve the Committee assignments as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

PROCEDURE IN EVENT OF DEATH OR INCAPACITY OF COUNTY MAYOR:

The Committee was provided a memorandum from the County Attorney with supporting legislation setting forth the procedure to be followed in the event of the death or incapacity of the County Mayor. The procedure is well defined in Tennessee Code Annotated.

COUNTY ATTORNEY POSITION:

Chairman Rodgers advised by Private Act the County is required to appoint a County Attorney to a two year term. The issue of the County Attorney was initially discussed two years ago as to options and a sub-committee consisting of the Mayor, Chairman Rodgers and Commissioner Daniel was formed to research the matter. The current term of the County Attorney expires November 1.

Mayor Burgess advised options range from doing nothing to establishing an in-house staff. The Committee was provided an agreement that defines in detail the functions of the County Attorney and how that office will be paid. It further allows the County after two years to engage a staff attorney if the Mayor and Commission so choose. The agreement provides for an initial term of two years where matters are handled by the current County Attorney. Nothing prohibits continuing with the current County Attorney arrangement as set forth in the agreement. In the third year of the agreement the current County Attorney's firm would continue to handle litigation although the County has the opportunity to decide as to litigation under certain circumstances being placed with staff attorney. Delinquent tax will continue to be handled by the County Attorney for two years.

Mayor Burgess advised the base salary of the County Attorney has been reduced to \$72,000 per year with predetermined rates for the attorneys. Associate counsel will be paid \$150 per hour with Mr. Cope to be paid one and two/third's that rate. The Leitner Williams attorneys are paid \$150 per hour for litigation.

The School Board can continue to employ their own attorney and the Sheriff's Department may choose their own attorney subject to the approval of Mr. Cope as County Attorney. Mayor Burgess advised the Sheriff's Department sometimes employs the Leitner Williams firm to handled its cases in Nashville.

Mayor Burgess advised the agreement provides for a potential savings in excess of \$100,000 over the first two years. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Farley moved, seconded by Commissioner Coggin, to approve the Legal Services Agreement as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

Commissioner Phillips requested the same information presented at this meeting by Chairman Rodgers and Mayor Burgess be presented at the Commission.

RESCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:

Due to Fall break, the next Steering Committee meeting will be held September 30, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Rodgers declared the meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

JOHN RODGERS, Chairman